

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office action mailed on April 8, 2010.

I. Specification and Drawing Amendments

FIG. 8 of the drawings has been objected to for not being identified as "new," as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b)(3). By this Amendment and Response, FIG. 8 is added and labeled as a "New Sheet." Applicant respectfully submits that the new sheet of drawings complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b)(3). An annotated mark-up sheet, showing the changes to FIG. 8, is also attached.

FIG. 8 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for illustrating an additional vertical member between the first vertical member 17 and the tilt cord 14 that was allegedly not disclosed in the application as filed. Accordingly, as shown in the attached annotated mark-up sheet, this Amendment and Response deletes the vertical member between the first vertical member 17 and the auxiliary tilt cord 14 and formerly labeled as the conventional loop 33. The reference numeral 33 has also been deleted from FIG. 8. Applicant submits that the deletion of the additional vertical member is sufficient to overcome the Examiner's objection to FIG. 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The specification is objected to because the section "Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment," allegedly did not set forth a description of FIG. 8. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the portion of the Specification describing the embodiment shown in FIG. 8 to explicitly refer to FIG. 8.

II. Claim Objections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 24-26 and 28-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner generally alleges that these claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, and submits that claims 24-26 and 28-34 merely incorporate features that are explicitly disclosed at Col. 10, lines 65-67 to Col. 11, lines 1-9 of the Specification as filed. For example, the Specification explicitly states that while the guiding loops 21 are preferably used in the blinds, the function of the guiding loops 21 can be incorporated into the engaging collars 25. See Specification, Col. 10, lines 65-67 to Col. 11, lines 1-9. The Specification further states that the collars 25 can be slidably

mounted on each vertical member 17 and auxiliary tilt cord 14, and that the collars 25 can be positioned between each adjacent pair of cross-rungs 29. See *Id.*

Applicant further submits that claims 24-26 and 28-34, with the exception of claims 29 and 32, essentially mirror claims 1-3, 15, 17, and 20-22 of the application as originally filed, with the guiding function of the loops 21 being incorporated in the engaging collar 21 as disclosed in the Specification. Claims 29 and 32 recite a plurality of beads that are regularly spaced along the auxiliary tilt cord and have a vertical spacing between them which is an integer value of a dimension that is slightly less than the vertical spacing between the cross-rungs. This feature is disclosed in the Specification at Col. 3, lines 65-67 to Col. 4, lines 1-3, stating that the vertical spacing of the beads along the tilt cord 14 is preferably the same and preferably slightly less than the vertical spacing of the cross-rungs. Thus, for at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that there is sufficient disclosure for each of claims 24-26 and 28-34.

Claims 24 and 26 are further rejected for being allegedly inconsistent. In particular, the Examiner alleges that the recitation that the engaging means is on the auxiliary tilt cord and the adjacent first vertical member is inconsistent with the recitation that the bead of the engaging means is fixed on the auxiliary tilt cord and vertically spaced away from the engaging collar. Applicant has amended claim 24 to delete the portion of the claim stating that the engaging means is "on said auxiliary tilt cord and said adjacent first vertical member of said ladder." Claim 26 has been similarly amended to delete the portion of the claim stating that "the engagement means is on each of said auxiliary tilt cords and each of said adjacent first vertical members."

Claims 28 and 31 are further rejected for allegedly claiming subject matter that was not disclosed in the specification as filed. In particular, claims 28 and 31 each recite a plurality of engaging collars that have a vertical spacing between them which is an integer value of a dimension that is equal to a vertical spacing between the cross-rungs. Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed vertical spacing was disclosed in the application as filed with respect to the guiding loops 21 in claims 15 and 20, as well as in the Specification at Col. 3, lines 62-67 to Col. 4, lines 1-12. As discussed above, the Specification further makes clear that the function of the guiding loops 21 can be incorporated into the engaging collars 25. See Specification as filed, Col. 10, lines 65-67

to Col. 11, lines 109. Accordingly, it should be well-understood that the engaging collars may have the same vertical spacing as described with respect to the guiding loops 21.

Claims 30 and 33 are also rejected for allegedly claiming subject matter that is not disclosed in the specification as filed. In particular, claims 30 and 33 each recite that there is at most one engaging collar for every five cross-rungs. Applicant respectfully submits that this feature was disclosed in claims 17 and 22 as originally filed, which explicitly state that "there is at most one engaging collar for every five cross-rungs along said adjacent first vertical member."

Additionally, the Applicant respectfully notes that the listing of the claims has been corrected to include claim 34. This Amendment and Response cancels claim 34, which essentially mirrored the language of claim 33.

III. Conclusion

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing the application. The Applicant respectfully submits the present reissue application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowability as soon as practicable.

This Amendment is submitted contemporaneously with a petition for a one-month extension of time in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Accordingly, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 in the amount of \$130.00, for a one-month extension of time. The Applicant believes no further fees or petitions are required. However, if any such petitions or fees are necessary, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 accordingly.

If the Examiner should require any additional information or amendment, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 9 day of Aug. 2010.

Respectfully submitted,



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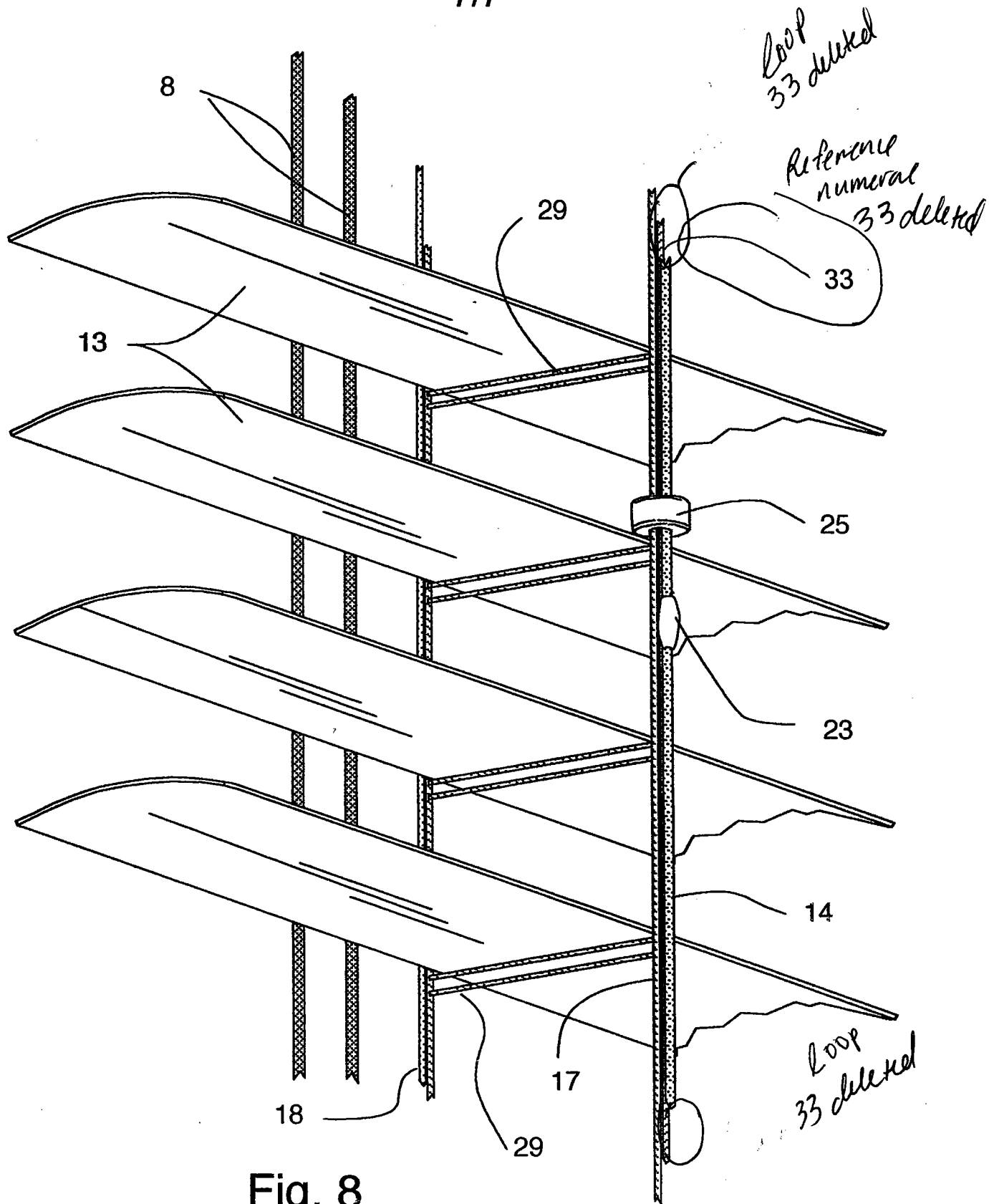


Fig. 8